UNDER AUTONOMY.

FUSION OF THE REFORMISTAS AND AUTONO-MISTAS-ATTITUDE OF THE CONSERVA-

TIVES-WEYLER'S HIDEOUS WORK OF EXTERMINATION.

[FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.] Havana, Dec. 15.-"Time and myself are two," said Philip II of Spain. Time is one in the regeneration of Cuba to-day, but what makes two? Not the boy King, or the Queen Regent, or Spain's viceroy, who already staggers under the responsibilities of civil government and milltary chaos which he inherited. The answer comes from a number of talented men who have | It is an unusual proceeding for the American been identified with the political aspirations of | Consulate to send a messenger to the camp of the island and the movement for colonial home | the insurgents, with a pass from the Spanish They have arranged among themselves the basis of complete fusion between the Au- lines. tonomistas and the Reformistas. These leaders | Though the request from Blanco may be of public opinion have formed the new party of the Government. "Time and ourselves are two." they say with complacency. To their minds sanction of the Captain-General. He is not nothing is lacking to the success of the regimen | holding unauthorized communication with the of autonomy. They await with tranquillity the insurgents. formation of the Conservatives into the party of the Opposition, not opposition to the established military authorities are sharply censured for fact of autonomy but to measures of future Having, as they believe, adopted oddly the British colonial system, they look forward to a permanent condition under which there will be His Majesty Alfenso XIII's Gov- surgent leaders and officers in Havana Province, ernment and His Majesty's Opposition. In the including Aranguren, signed a proclamation reinitial stages the places of power, the administrative places, will be given to them and to their friends. The case is in some respects parallel to what followed the Peace of Zanjon in 1878, der would be hanged. Repeated warnings when the Liberal and Conscivative parties cal entity was a matter of resolution and agree- and partly on the fact that the insurgents' rement. The Cuban Liberals, even when Sagasta | sentment has been directed against Cubans who was in power in Spain, were able to leave little

impress on home affairs. The Autonomist agitation began, It had a definite programme, whose realization has been reached to-day so far as decree and proclamation can be said to be the realization of political The Liberals disintegrated; the Conservatives saw danger to Spain's sovereignty and the perquisites of Spain's official classes in the movement. When, during the period of sion would not improve his prospects of safe Autonomist vigor and freedom, they heard return. themselves called "birds of passage," their alarm was intense. After that they could see under the cloak of autonomy no other figure than the skeleton of independence. Thenceforth there were only two parties. They themselv were the Integristas, who would save Spain's The advocates of reforms, of concessions, of measures of home rule, were the Separatistas, who would tear a precious gem from the Crown. The Spanish Intransigente in Cuba to-day is firmly of the opinion that the Autonomist agitation was the seed of the insurrection, while the present condition of commercial paralysis, the misery of the people and the military impotency are the dead fruits.

ORIGIN OF THE REFORM GROUP

In time the reaction came. Conservatives Havana. were found who saw the need of reforming the abuses of Spain's Government and giving the colony some share in the administration of its own affairs. Some Liberals there were also who were fearful of autonomy, and wanted something short of it. Out of these classes the Reformista group arose. It has always been more of a group than a political party. The men who composed it were influential within.

Havana.

The insurgents in camp had not been prepared for the visit of Aranguren, and seeing Ruiz in his uniform, and learning the object of his visit, they demanded the application of the proclamation of Gomez and Rodriguez, which orders the infliction of the death penalty upon all persons who aitempt to induce the chiefs of the rebellion to surrender.

In compliance with their demands a court-martial was formed and the sentence of death was passed upon Ruiz. men who composed it were influential within certain lines. They would have accepted the While supporting the war reforms of Maura. as carried on by Weyler they urged the immediate application of the reforms proposed by Canovas a year age, and insisted that abuses in administration should be corrected without island. While the majority of the Autonomist leaders were Cubans, the Reformistas were their delegates in Madrid, and on those dele gates both Sagasta and Moret have leaned

In the basis of fusion which has been arranged it is the Autonomists who make the sacrifices. They have heretofore shown their devotion to principle. They have yielded this ties time out of deference to Madrid. Marques de Montaro, Galvez, Giberga and the others will assuredly have recognition when the occasion comes, but it was assumed that both the historic Autonomists and their radical associates would have more to go with the actual workings of the new colonial system. However, the Reformistas have been stubborn. In the general plan of organizing the united forces the them. Marques de Rabell, their leader, manages to get the chief position. In the United States it would be said that the Autonomists have the honors, while the Reformistas have control of the party machinery. The arrangement has elements of weakness. One drawback is that it will make useless further effort toward coaxing the Autonomists who are in the States Congress, says:

opposite idea has prevailed they profess sorrow

WINNING OVER THE CONSERVATIVES.

While this is their talk, the signs are that TO JOIN THE SEAL PATROL PLEET. the Palace has made progress toward gaining the acquiescence of a portion of the Conservative party in autonomy. It will be an acquier conce if anything comes, not a positive sup Conservatives in a position of accepting an established condition will be in itself a gain. Marques de Apezteguia, as president of the party, is working resourcefully and skilfully. He will the promise of peace in the Cuba Cabinet, but if he carries his point he can ignore the charge. If he fails, the Intransigentes hope the effect will be to overturn the Sagasta Cabinet. The near approach of the Conservative party's convention, December 20, makes speculation as to what will be done unnecessary. A split with Apezteguia's followers in the minority is possible. The spirit of a large number of the Conservatives is ugly enough. It is to upset auton-

omy. Their organ says. The Autonomistas spread the table, the Reformistas ate the feast, and we are asked to pay

The more moderate organ of the commercial Interests says The Government is drawing nearer to the

precipice. Let us not be the ones to push it This is not cheerful advice, yet since the canger has been that these classes would push

the Government over the precipice, their willing-

Continued on fourth page.

OF OUR CONSUL-GENERAL.

MOVED TO THIS UNUSUAL PROCEEDING BY THE TRAGIC FATE OF COLONEL RUIZ,

WHO WENT AS MESSENGER TO

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Key West, Fla., Dec. 18.-The indications point to an early crisis for Blanco's Administration. Ruin. That the good offices of the United States through Consul-General Lee should be invoked by the Captain-General to save Ruiz when he was thought to be alive is significant. military authorities taking him through their That is precisely what has happened, unefficial, and was due to pressure from Ruiz's friends, General Lee did not act without the

The sensation in Havana is great and the permitting Ruiz to undertake a mission which guren and other insurgent leaders, and was said to include an offer of money. All the injecting autonomy. They also made the an nouncement that emissaries coming to them from Blanco with propositions of surren were given of this purpose. Ruiz disregarded ere formed, as though the creation of a politi- | them, relying partly on Aranguren's friendship came as emissaries rather than against Spanish officers performing military duty. But the circumstances in his case were different. Overtures through Ruiz had been formally rejected, and he was warned against coming to the insurgent camp with peace propositions. The two columns after Ruiz when he had gone to the insurgents on a professedly peaceful mis-

> RUIZ KILLED WITH A MACHETE STORY OF THE DEATH OF BLANCO'S EMISSARY TO THE CAMP OF THE INSURGENTS.

Señor Tosca, who had been commissioned United States Consul-General Lee to make inquiries, returned from Campo Florido, three leagues distant from the insurgent encampment of Aranguren's force and that the chief of the party confirmed the report that on his arrival donel Ruiz, Blanco's messenger, was met by Aranguen and an escort of twelve men, who received him warmly. Ruiz urged the party to accept autonomy and congratulated himself that would induce them to return with him to

was passed upon Ruiz.

Sefor Tosca adds that Aranguren stood aloof during the trin, and allowed the death sentence to be carried out. Colonel Ruiz was executed with a machete.

ALLAYING SPANISH FEARS AN OFFICIAL NOTE REGARDING AMERICAN WAR SHIPS - EDITORIAL EXCITEMENT

day says that the dispatch of an American | Lily Park, filed their report with the Governor this mostly Spanish. In the recent crisis they had | squadron to the Gulf of Mexico has not made a sible, and that these winter manœuvres have number were killed.

> leave to Marshal Blanco the task of organizing the first Cuban Government. It will hold entirely aloof on local questions, having confidence in the general success of the reforms adopted for the island.

The reports circulated concerning the construction of Spanish warships are much exaggerated, according to the note, which ascerts that it is the Government's intention merely to complete the existing squadron in accordance with a scheme prepared some years ago by a commission presided over by the late Señor Canovas del Castillo.

The note concludes with the assurance that the Carlists have not been contemplating disturbances, and that the leaders of the party are preparing to take part in the approaching legislative elections.

The "Imparcial," in an article on the United

ard coaxing the Autonomists who are in the field with the insurgents to come back and help establish colonial self-government. But it may strengthen Sagasta and Moret in Spain, and that is a consideration of the highest importance.

The Conservatives, or the Union Constitutionals, as they call themselves, have watched the proceedings with contempt. They do not believe in fusion. They say political parties represent ideas and principles. Their own idea is Spain's sovereignty in Cuba. Now that the opposite idea has prevailed they profess sorrow.

States Congress, Says:

After the insults and calumnies against Spain, our excellent almost protector and friend, Mckin-our excellent almost protector and friend. Mckin-our

Continuing, the "Imparcial" says: opposite idea has prevailed they profess sorrow for their old opponents, the Autonomistas, who, in the hour of victory, are forced to yield its fruits to the Reformistas.

Continuing the Impactant says and the Impactant says of the We know means which will oil the tricks of the Yankees. These means are the great level of the island, the grean activity in our arsenals and the great energy of activity in our arsenals and the great energy of the Government. It is unnecessary to mention the

THE NEW REVENUE CUTTER HUGH M'CULLOCH

Philadelpaia, Dec. is.—The new revenue cutter Hugh McCalloch left the Crampe' shippard to-day for the Pacific Coast by way of Cape Horn, in com-mand of Captain Hodgson, with ten officers and a crew of seventy-five men. She will be the flagship of the revenue cutter fleet in these waters, of the revenue cutter fleet in those waters. Her principal duty, however, will be to keep the seal potencies from violating the United States laws governing the waters of Behrinz Sea. She will refleve the Bear. The dimensions of the new cutter are: Length, 219 feet; beam, 34 feet; mean draught, 14, with a displacement of 1.280 tons. The engines are of 2.000 indicated horse-power. The contract speed is sixteen knots, although on her official test last May the average speed was 17.34 knots an hour. The armament consists of four six-pounders and four one-pounders, the latter rapid-fire guns of the Driggs-Shroeder pattern. There is also a torpedo toile in her how.

Captain Russell Clover, who conducted the official inapocition of the vessel, says that the McCulloch is beyond question the fastest cutter in the United States revenue service, and could act in the capacity of an auxiliary cruiser.

CLARE'S BODY TO LIE IN STATE.

Lexington, Ky., Dec. 18.—The body of Lewis George Clark, the original Jeorge Harris of Harriet Beecher Stowe's "Unde Tom's Caldin," who died on Thursday, will lie in state in the Auditorium from \$2.5 m. to 1 p. m. on Sunday. No such honor has ever been paid to a negro in Kentucky.

PLORIDA AND THE SOUTH.

Southern Railway and F. C. & P. Perfect service, quickest time. Round trip tickets on sale. The route of twenty-four hours New York and Florida Limited. New York Offices, 271 and 553

THE NEW ORDER IN CUBA. ASKED GENERAL LEE'S AID. RUSSIANS IN PORT ARTHUR THE DURATION OF THE BOND REVENUES ARE INCREASING. THE NEWS IN LONDON.

WITH CHINA'S ACQUIESCENCE.

PORCIBLE OCCUPATION OR HOSTILITY TO CHINA.

GERMANY OR ANY OTHER POWER DISCLAIMED -A FAMOUS CHINESE STRONGHOLD.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 18 .- It is announced that a Russian squadron under Rear-Admiral Reounow, has entered Port Arthur, on the Chinese coast, with the entire acquiescence of the Chinese Government. The Squadron intends to remain at Port Arthur during the winter. This is due solely to the need of a temporary winter station, and involves no question of forcible occupation, or hostile demonstration, or any intention against China, Germany, Japan or any

Port Arthur, which is situated at the extremity

of the Liao-Tong Peninsula, has practically the hands of Russia for some time past. After the Japanese evacuated the port, which was the scene of a terrible massacre of the Chinese, Russian engineers began supervising the reconstruction of the docks and forts which had been destrayed by the Japanese previous to leaving the Previous to the war between China and Japan Port Arthur was the largest navai station sed by the Chinese, and was strongly forti-There was a Chinese naval dockyard there, built by a French company; a large refitting basin with a depth of twenty-five feet at low water; spaclous wharfs and quays, two docks, one 400 feet long, and facilities for repairing ships of all sizes, from tronclads to torpedo-boats. The foundries and workshops were constructed on the most improved models, and contained the best modern to the contained t

proved models, and contained the best modern machinery.

Japan was very anxious to hold Port Arthur permanently, but Russia strongly objected and would have backed up her objections by force, which caused Japan to evacuate the place. Russia's great anxiety to possess Fort Arthur is due to the fact that the harbor is free from fee all the winter, which is not the case with Vladivostock, the present headquarters of the Russian feet in the Far East. Although Port Arthur was protected both on land and sea sides by strong form, armed with modern guns of heavy calibre, the Japanese had no difficulty in capturing it. It is proposed to connect Port Arthur with the Russian railroad now being built through Manchuria, which in turn will connect with the great Trans-Siberian Railroad.

GERMAN TROOPS SAIL FOR CHINA. REINFORCEMENTS FOR THE ARMY OF OCCUPATION AT KIAO CHAU

Dec. 18.-The North German Lloyd steame Darmstadt, having on board half the number of volunteers bound for China and an immense amount of war material, which sailed from Wilhelmshaven yesterday, left here to-day for the Far East. The steamer Crefeld will follow in a fortnight with the rest of the volunteers and more war material.

Ferrel, Spain, bec. 18.—The German ironclad Oldenburg has sailed for Gibraltar to Join the vessels bound for China under the command of Prince Henry of Prussis.

LIKENS CHINA TO AN ARTICHOKE. MUST BE EATEN, BIT BY BIT, SAYS EMPEROR WILLIAM.

Berlin, Dec. 18.-The Emperor has been characat Tumba Guatro. He says he met outposts teristically busy the whole week. Besides Kiel, he attended a number of banquets and important meet-While at Hamburg and Kiel His Majesty made several noteworthy remarks. For instance while inspecting the Leutschland, he said he hoped the time was not distant when Germany would have such fine vessels affoat in every sea. When dining with Admiral von Knorr, the Emperor said: "China is like an artichoke; it has to be eaten bit by bit."

> BISMARCK SUFFERS A RELAPSE. MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY THE AGED STATES MAN IS SAID TO BE DECLINING.

London, Dec. 18.-A dispatch from Hamburg says: "Prince Elsmarck, who braced up for the Emperor's visit, has relapsed into his former weakness, despondency and persistent insomnia. Men-tally and physically, Prince Bismarck is rapidly declining."

INDIANS BLAMED FOR THE CONFLICT.

REDMEN, WHILE HUNTING, DECIDED TO FIGHT THE THUCKSKIN POLICE.

'harles E. Webb, constituting the comafternoon. The report is an almost complete vin-dication of the game wardens, and shows that the

The finding of the committee is that the Indians not occurred for two years past on account of a were the aggressors. The Indians, who, according to the testimony, had been slaughtering game They told the settlers that they want

ten Wilcox and his deputies assembled at Thompden. Wilcox and his deputies assembled at Thompson's ranch during the night previous to the fight, and dropped down in the camp the next day before the Indians were aware of their presence, the wardens would have met with disaster at the hands of the Ures, and the story of the conflict would have been that the whites instead of the Indians would have been killed. Warden Wilcox and the men under him are commended in the report for their bravery and the manner in which they protected the rights of the settlers and upheld the laws and dignity of the State.

BOSTON'S STREET RAILWAYS LEASED.

THE WEST END SYSTEM TO BE REN BY THE

Baston, Duc. 18.-The Railroad Commissioners have approved the terms of the new lease of the West End Street Railway to the Boston Elevated Railway Company. The lease is for twenty-five years, with 8 per cent guaranteed dividend on preferred and 7 per cent on common stock.

BIG REWARD FOR HIS CAPTURE.

A TRUST COMPANY'S SECRETARY ABSCONDS WITH \$100,000 CASH AND \$500,000 IN BONDS.

tives have been looking for the arrival here of an important criminal from Buenos Ayres. Every incoming vessel has been searched, especially those from Central America. The fugitive, whose capture Chief of Police Lees and his men seek so eagerly, is José de Salverio, the absconding secretary of the Buenos Ayres National Safe Deposit and Trust

Salverio left his home recently with a sudden that set his employers to make an immediate investigation of his accounts. It resulted in the disveatigation of his accounts. It resulted in the discovery that Salverio had carried with him \$100,000 in cash belonging to the National Safe Deposit Company and \$20,000 in Government bonds. It is reported that San Francisco was his destination, and the Buonos Ayres authorities requested Chief Lees to look out for him. Salverio's capture carries with it a heavy reward. Early this week the much-sought fugitive was said to be in the vicinity of Victoria and Scattle. The rumor is doubted, however, at Police Headquarters.

The officials there think that, if Salverio has not made his way to Panama and taken a steamer for Europe, he is likely to turn up any day at this port.

MARY ELIZABETH LEASE FOR CONGRESS.

here Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Lease states that her lecture engagements are not proving as profitable as she expected. She announces that she expects to return to Kantas and begin an active canvass for the Populatic nomination for Congress in the VIIth Congress District. The fight against Jerry Viith Congress District. The fight against Jerry Simpson, she says, will prevent his re-nomination, and it is her hope eventually to secure a majority of the votes in the convention. Mrs. Lease expects to be opposed by the Democrats, but she says that, if nominated, she will hold meetings in every preduct in the district and "give the people of the Viith a repetition of the campaign of 1890, when we first elected Jerry."

TWO HUNDRED & FIFTY DOLLARS
will buy a fine plane; fancy cases higher.
KRELL, 174 Fifth-ave., Bet. 224 & 23d Sis.—Advt.

RAPID TRANSIT SITUATION.

GENERAL OFINION THAT, IF THE \$15,000,000 SECURITY IS TO LAST ONLY FOR THE PERIOD OF CONSTRUCTION, NO

> SERIOUS OBSTACLE HAS BEEN PLACED IN THE WAY OF BUILDING THE ROAD.

Whether New-York is to have the system of rapid transit planned for it after a long period of earnest thought and labor by the men appointed to solve the problem of bettering the transport facilities of the city depends largely upon the period which the stipulated \$15,000,000 bond is to run. Much perplexity existed yesterday as to the construction to be placed, in this connection, upon the decision of the Apellate Division of the Supreme Court. If it should be held by the Court that the bond shall be entered into only for the satisfactory and comground rapid transit line will be begun comparatively soon. But if it shall be insisted that the bond must cover the whole period of the half century during which the successful contractors must operate the line, then the obligation seems to be to all practical intents prohibi-At least this was the general opinion expressed by members of the Board of Rapid Transit Commissioners yesterday, and by in fact, every one who is closely interested or concerned in the carrying out of the underground project. The decision of the majority of the Appellate Court was much discussed yesterday by persons qualified to interpret the judgment, and the opinion prevailed widely that the judges in fixing a \$15,000,000 bond, had in mind only a guarantee for the completion of the work, once it was undertaken, and not the imposition of impossible conditions upon any syndicate of capitalists formed to build, and afterward to oper-

WHEREFORE THEY REJOICE. The jubilation manifested by those opposed to

he underground raffroad is based entirely upon In view of the augnitude of the undertaking which we are asked to approve, and the vital interest which the city has in the prompt completion of the contract for the building of the road when entered into, and its effective equipment, maintenance and operation, we think that we should before consummating our confirmation of the report of the Supreme Court Commissioners by the entry of an order to that effect have some assurance that the powers of the Rapid Transit Commissioners in respect to security, provided by Section 34 of the Rapid Transit act for the payment of the rental specified in the contract and for the faithful performance of all the conditions, covenants and requirements provided for in the contract, should be exercised so as to protect the interests of the city in a substantial manner, and to that end a stipulation should be filed by the Rapid Transit Commissioners that the penalty of the bond specified in Section 34 of the Hapid Transit act will be fixed at not less than \$15,000,00. the following paragraph of the Court's decision:

Section 34, after providing that those who operate it for a period of not less than thirtyfive years and not more than fifty years, provides that "the person, firm or corporation so contracting for the construction, equipment maintenance and operation of said road shall give a bond to said city in such amount as said Board of Rapid Transit Railroad Commissioners shall require, and with sureties to be approved by said Board, who shall justify in double the amount of said bond. Said bond shall be a con-

TO CARRY IT "TO COMPLETION."

At first sight it might appear that the \$15,-ONLOW security was intended by the Court to mtinue for the thirty-five or fifty years' operation of the line by the constructing contractors. But, as one of the Commissioners pointed out to a Tribune reporter yesterday, that the Court meant to convey no such intention in its deci-Denver, Dec. 18 -D. G. Beaman, Joshua Wal- | slan was apparent in the language used in that document, which directly and clearly stated that was to protect the city, by making it obligatory gan work upon the road, it should be carried out that in the present season the Gulf of Mexico Indians were alone responsible for the bloody con- to a completion. This is held to be manifest in the paragraph of the decision which immediately

This amount, in view of the large interests of the ity involved in its advances of credit for the work a triprogresses, is not more than sufficient security of the city in the event of the failure of the conractor to perform his or its contract and to enable it to carry the road to completion in case the interprise is thrown on its hands by the default or arfeiture of the contractor.

Several of the Commissioners, after their meetdecision as showing fully that the Justices were swayed, in fixing so high a guarantee, by a fear that a combination of capitalists, after having contracted for and perhaps started the work, might abandon it, to the detriment of the in-

THEN THE DANGER WOULD BE OVER.

"Undoubtedly it was to obviate some such danger as this," said L. L. Delaffeld, the secretary of the Commission, "that the Court stipulated for so big a bond. But once the road is completed the danger which the Court has in contemplation is over and the necessity for the existence of the bond is done away with."

It was admitted on all sides yesterday that the syndicate which has been organized to bid for the contract is able and would be willing to file a bond of \$15,000,000 for the construction of the railroad, but it is regarded as almost certain that the syndicate would not attempt to meet an obligation to continue the bond for

something like half a century. The Commissioners themselves are all at sea. to inquiries go to demonstrate their belief that | GLENMORE AND EAGLE DISTILLING COMPANIES Their demeanor and the nature of their answers the rapid trat.sit proposals are dependent upon the question of the duration of the bond. Before proceeding to draw up any form of contract or decide upon the terms of the lease, the Commissioners will wait until the application is made, next Tuesday or Wednesday, to the Court to enter the order, and then, doubtless, means will be taken to have some of the paragraphs of

day a call for a special meeting was immediately sent to the members of the Commission. This meeting was held yesterday afternoon at the offices of the Board, No. 256 Broadway. For over two hours the Commissioners discussed the situation in private, and subsequently Mr. Delafield announced that the following resolution

That it be referred to the Committee on Contracts, to report to this Board at as early a date as possible, whether it is practicable to obtain such a bond as is suggested by the opinion of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, and if, in the judgment of such committee, it be deemed impracticable that such committee report what security in money, bonds or otherwise can be obtained from responsible bidders. The committee referred to is composed of Alex-

ander E. Orr, Charles Stewart Smith and George L. Rives. In addition to these there were present at the meeting John Claffin, William Barclay Parsons, Lewis L. Delafield, Albert B. Boardman and Edward M. Shepard. Beyond

Twelve superb Christmas presents for \$5.00.
Rockwood's Photographs, Broadway (40th St.)
—(Advt.

STRIVING FOR A POLITICAL SYSTEM BLANCO INVOKES THE GOOD OFFICES THEIR SQUADRON W'LL WINTER THERE REGARDED AS THE VITAL POINT IN THE A STEADY GAIN IN RECEIPTS FROM MR. CHAMBERLAIN AS THE GOVERN-

INTERNAL REVENUE ALSO MAKING A GRATIFY-ING SHOWING CHAIRMAN DINGLEY'S ESTI-

MATE LIKELY TO BE REALIZED. IBY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.

Washington, Dec. 18.-It begins to look as though the receipts from customs would reach their normal volume within the next three months, and would thereafter steadily increase. The average receipts from that source for the calendar year 1896 amounted to about \$12,000,000 a month. The average for the first two months of the current calendar year amounted to about \$11,400,000 a month, and those figures are likely to be duplicated by the receipts of the current month. The average monthly receipts for the five months ended July 31 of the current year amounted to \$20,540,000, or more than \$8,500,000 in excess of the monthly receipts for the calendar year 1896, whereas the monthly average for the next four months amounted to only \$8,600,000, or \$3,400,000 less than the average for the last

mlendar year. The receipts from customs for the first fifteen days of the current month amounted to \$5,719,000, or at the rate of \$11,400,000 a month, and the receipts on account of internal taxes amounted to \$7,212,000, or at the rate of \$14,424,000 for the month. These figures indicate that Mr. Dingley's estimate of the month's revenues \$27,000,000, not including any money on account of the sale of the Union Pacific Railroad, was a conservative one, and is likely to be realized. In his speech on the Pension Appropriation

bill Mr. Dingley said: "The gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. Richardson) asks when we may expect that our monthly revenue will reach expenditures under the existing revenue laws. Of course estimates of revenue looking to the future are always problematical. No one can steak with certainty. We can only draw probble inferences. Now, we commenced in Augus. after the act was passed-the anticipatory importations having almost stopped importations for the time being-with a revenue of \$19,000,-In September the revenues increased to \$22,000,000; in October, to \$24,000,000; in November, always a lean revenue month and one day short, to \$25,000,000. And allow me to say that, although I did not expect that in December there would be an improvement of more large importing month, yet I am informed by the Treasury Department that if the revenue keeps on for the remainder of this month as it has started in the first nine days it will rise from \$25,000,000 in November to at least \$27,-000,000 in December, with the probability of coming nearly, if not quite, up to the expenditures for the month of December."

These figures, of course, did not include any payments on account of the Union Pacific Railroad, but Mr. Bailey, of Texas, and some other Democrats seemed to be unable or unwilling to comprehend the fact.

PARDEE HALL NEARLY DESTROYED.

LAPATETTE COLLEGE AND ITS PROFESSORS LOSE HEAVILY BY FIRE.

Easton, Penn., Dec. 18.-Pardee Hall, the mag four-story stone structure that stood on the brow of College Hill, this city, and was the pride of Lafayette College, was badly damaged by fire early this morning. Only the east wing was saved from the flames. The centre of the structare and the entire west wing were burned out, and the blackened walls are left standing.

diars' worth of valuable property belonging to professors at the college was destroyed by the A heavy portion of the loss falls on J. Madison Porter, professor of civil and topographical ring. His machinery, instruments, etc., were

as the flames had gained great headway. Alarms mass of flames. The fire raged so flereely and spread so rapidly, aided by a strong wind from the west, that for three hours the work of the firemen was of no avail. Then aid came from Philipsburg, N. J. just across the Delaware River, and in another hour the flames were under control. The students turned out, and, under the direction of Professor Marsh, they succeeded in carrying from the building many valuable instruments books, experimental plants, etc. The fire originated in the biological laboratory, on the second floor of the west wing. It is believed to have been started by a defective gasburner under at liculator.

bator. Pardee Hall consisted of one centre building five stories in height, 53 feet front and 83 feet deep, and two lateral wings, one on each side of the centre building, measuring 61 feet in length and 31 in width, four stories in height. The old Pardee Hall was destroyed in 1879, and the structure burned to-

OUT FOR GOVERNOR OF MICHIGAN.

EX-CONGRESSMAN O'DONNELL DECLARES HIM-

SELF A CANDIDATE AGAINST PINGREE. une" from Jackson says: "Ex-Congressman James
O'Donnell, Editor of 'The Jackson Citizen,' has declared himself as Republican candidate for the next
nomination for Governor in opposition to Governor
Pingree. His campaign slegan will be 'economy in
State affairs."

A WEALTHY DISTILLER FAILS.

ALSO ASSIGN - TRADE DEPRESSION

Owensbore, Ky., Dec. 18 -R. Menarch, for him-self, the Glemmore Distilling Company and the Eagle Distilling Company, assigned to-day to the Columbia Finance and Trust Company of Louisville. The assets and liabilities are estimated to each about \$550,000. The depression in the whiskey trade and inability to continue loans are given as the cause. R. Monarch and his attorneys positively refuse

R. Monarch and his attorneys positively refuse to make any statement whatever as to liabilities and assets, and the deed contains no schedule, merely mentioning the distillery property, sundry barrels of whiskey, notes, accounts, etc. Monarch's residence cost over \$100.009, and he was considered one of the most wealthy men as well as the larg-est distiller in this State.

COUNTY RETURNS ALL IN.

THE STATE VOTE TO BE CANVASSED TO-MOR-ROW-TOTAL FOR EACH CANDIDATE.

Albany, Dec. 18.—The last returns of the vote of the State ticket, those of Richmond County, were the State ticket, those of Richmond County, were received by Secretary of State Palmer this morning, but, as he was the only member of the State Board of Canvassers in the city, he adjourned the meeting to canvass the vote for Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals until Monday morning at 10 ciclock. The votes by counties were footed up and given out by the Secretary of State. They show that the total vote cast for Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals was 1,13,13s, of which Alton B. Parker, the Democratic candidate, received 554,689, William J. Wallace, the Republican candidate, 483,791; Theodore F. Cuno, the Socialist-Labor candidate, 12,853, The blank, defective and scattering vote amounted to 70,189. ing vote amounted to 70,180.

CALIFORNIA TOURIST SLEEPING-CAR Leaves New-York (Whitehall terminal and foot Lib-erty-st.) every Tuesday, 10 a. m., via Baltimore and Ohlo and Iron Mountain Route. Berth rate to all California points, 33. Tickets and information all B. & O. offices.—(Advt.

SOME MINISTERIAL PERPLEXITIES-THE PRE

DICTED EXHAUSTION OF BRITISH COALBEDS -THE ENGINEERING LOCKOUT STILL IN

PROTECTIONIST POLICIES - THE TERRIS MURDER-PLANS OF SO-CIETY FOR THE HOLIDAYS. [BY CABLE TO THE TRIBUNE.]

London, Dec. 18.-Having failed to reconstruct the Cabinet, political forecasters are now devoting their energies to drafting measures for the next session of Parliament, and settling the details of party tactics. Mr. Balfour is described as wringing his hands in despair over the Irish Local Government bill, of which he will have charge. He announced his Irish policy nearly a year in advance, and interested at once every class in the Island. The Irish Office has received tons of correspondence and printed digests relating to the subject of landlords and tenants, Loyalists and Nationalists, officials and theorists, have overwhelmed Mr. Balfour with advice and darkened counsel, and the inherent difficulty of the work has been immeasurably increased. If the various classes knew what they wanted, the drafting of the bill would have been facilitated; but Ireland is a hotbed of

the conflict of irreconcilable opinion. Army reorganization is also a highly contentious subject, and Lord Lansdowne is equally unhappy in the War Office over the divergencies of expert opinion. His department is represented in the Commons by Mr. Broderick and Mr. Powell Williams, one a Liberal-Unionist and the other a "ory. The prophets insist that they will modestly retire from the field and leave Mr. Chamberlain in charge of the bill, which

faction feuds, and Mr. Balfour is appalled by

requires the leadership of a trained tactician. Mr. Gould, the caricaturist, at once introduces Mr. Chamberlain to the public as a field marshal in full uniform, before the run or can be denied from Birmingham. Army reform is a matter outside the normal range of the master of the Colonial Office, and his colleagues are not likely to make public confession that he is the only Minister competent to direct the passage of & difficult measure.

The London bill has not yet been assigned to any Minister, since Lord Salisbury has deferred his meeting with the local vestry delegation, and nobody can tell how much or how little he meant by his Albert Hall speech until he has full opportunity for explaining it away altogether. like his famous Hastings speech on protection. Ministers who have an overwhelming majority behind them need not lie awake nights worrying over legislative details. Their work is easy when they have heavy reserves of voters for every division and when they are assured in advance that the House of Lords is only an automatic registering machine so long as a Unionist Government is in power.

A larger measure of sympathy is required for the opposition in its attempts to explain the new Liberal programme and to adapt it to the needs of a distracted and demoralized party. The embarrassment of the leaders has been increased by Mr. Dillon's plain intimation that a Liberal programme without Irish home rule implies an end of the alliance with the Nationalists. The Irish members, with all their chivalry, do not regard a woman suffrage plank as an adequate substitute for Mr. Gladstone's Home

Rule bill. The most notable speeches of the week have not been political, but industrial. One was Mr. Courtney's address before the Royal Statistical Society on Jevons's coal question after thirty years. Although Mr. Courtney is now well-nigh blind, he cannot, like Mr. Fawcett, speak withe out notes, but has his secretary behind him to ever, Mr. Fawcett's ardor for scientific study and succeeds in making dry subjects deeply interesting. His address has been widely commented upon by the press, since he contended that the day must come when England's supremacy in the coal and iron trade would be impaired. Mr. Courtney laid great stress upon the enormous increase in the output of coal in the in the cost of production there at the mouth of the pit, until it is two shillings lower a ton than in Great Britain. He plainly intimated that America, with a larger store of mineral wealth and superior facilities of production, must ulti-

mately lead in this industrial struggle. Another equally significant address was delivered in Belfast by Mr. Pirrie, the leading partner of the ship-building firm of Harland & Wolff, which has not joined the Employers' Federation in the present engineering lockout He strongly condemned the aggressive policy of other British employers in the engineering trade, and declared that they must break away from old prejudices and class hatreds and not regard their workmen with suspicion and enmity. He expressed the firm belief that with improved machinery and highly skilled labor employers might contemplate with equanimity the prospect of the success of the eight-hour movement. His colleagues are not of the same mind, for they have spent another week in conference with the engineers, adhering tenaciously to their own ultimatum and opposing any settlement which will not leave the masters victorious all along the line. A new agreement has been substituted for the one rejected by the Trades-Unions, but substantially it is the same ultimatum, the masters having merely changed the phrasing. They concede nothing, but open a bridge for the engineers to retreat.

cape the notice of America is that, while the English press invariably assumes that the financial system of the United States is hopelessly disordered, and that the industries of the country are paralyzed by the revival of protection, competition from that quarter is not only dreaded but felt. The marvellous development of manufacturing industries, the systematic improvement of machinery and the cheapening of the cost of production in the United States are facts frankly acknowledged by the same critics who condemn the protective system under which these results have been accomplished. Sir Robert Giffen, upon whom Cobden's mantle has fallen, denies that protection protects, and sneers at the Rip Van Winkles of McKinley and Dingley legislation, but he fails to convince even "The Times" that all will yet come right for England and truth prevail.
"The Economist" declares to-day that Presi-

dent McKinley's currency proposels do not improve on closer acquaintance, and predicts that a surplus is not likely to be forthcoming in the near future. "The Standard" has, however, & dispatch from New-York disclosing unmistakable signs of the improvement in business and the revival of prosperity. English financial experts will be unhappy if the deficit disappears next year and their forecasts are falsified. They will have to fall back on the Cobdenite dictum that, well off as protection countries may be, they would be even more prosperous under

The English press is strangely reticent over the German Emperor's bit of melodrama at Kiel. The leading journals apparently do not